

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A2  
Next, the decryption function unit 2022, using the read decryption key  $K_s$ , decrypts the received encrypted connected information  $E(F(m, R_a), K_p, r)$  according to the decryption algorithm, so as to generate a decrypted connected information  $D(E(F(m, R_a), K_p, r), K_s)$ , and outputs the decrypted connected information to the information removing unit 2250.